

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11 are amended. Claims 2 and 8 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Support for the subject matter added to claims 1 and 7 can be found in the written description at, for example, paragraphs [0023], [0044] and [0045] .

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Dung and Zhong at the interview held June 22, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute the record of the interview.

In paragraphs 4-6 on pages 2-3, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,629,135 to Ross, Jr. et al. (hereinafter "Ross") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,437 to Neilsen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 7 recite, "an information scent document vector generated by the following formulas applied t number of times where the matrix W reflects the weighted content matrix, vector E reflects the relevant document path, and the value ALPHA reflects the probability a user will click through to a document or web page

$$(1) \quad A(1) = \text{ALPHA} * \text{Topology Matrix} * E$$

$$(2) \quad A(t) = \text{ALPHA} * \text{Topology Matrix} * A(t-1) + E."$$

As discussed during the personal interview, neither Ross nor Neilsen discloses, teaches or suggests the above-quoted subject matter of claims 1 and 7.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1 and 7 as being unpatentable over Ross in view of Neilsen be withdrawn.

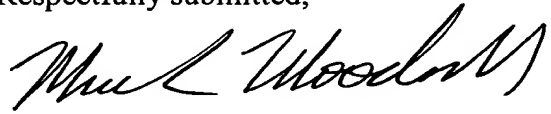
In paragraphs 8-16, the Office Action rejects claims 2-6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross in view of Neilsen, in further view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0074368 to Schuetze (hereinafter "Schuetze"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-6 and 9-11 are allowable at least based on their dependence from claims 1 and 7 for the reasons stated above in connection with the rejection of claims 1 and 7. Schuetze fails to overcome these deficiencies in Ross and Neilsen. Claims 2 and 8 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter therein. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2-6 and 8-11 as being unpatentable over Ross in view of Neilsen, and further in view of Schuetze be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 23, 2005

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